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BOOK REVIEWS

Contributo Psicologici del Laboratorio di Psicologia Sperimentale della R. Università di Roma. By S. DE SANCTIS and others. Vol. I, 1910-1911. Presso il Laboratorio di Psicologia, Roma, 1912.

This is a new annual established by Professor De Sanctis, Director of the Psychological Laboratory of the University of Rome, for the purpose of publishing in collected form, the results of investigations undertaken in his laboratory. This first volume contains twenty-three papers, most of which have previously appeared in psychological journals. Not all the articles included are laboratory studies, though all deal with some topic connected with experimental psychology. Ten of the papers are by Professor De Sanctis and discuss the following subjects. "Methods of modern psychology," "External manifestations of thought" (this is a discussion of various theories and not an original laboratory investigation); "Experimental psychology and pedagogy;" several papers treating of problems connected with abnormal children, one of which is a series of mental tests, and "A new method for the study of mental work." This last consists of the use of a series of words read rapidly by the subject, and a later presentation of the words in an incomplete form, the subject being required to complete them. The difference in time between the two series is taken as a measure of the work performed.

Other contributions are as follows: "An experimental critique of the doctrine of tactile points" by Emilia Barucci; "Simple reaction time and predisposition (*Einstellung*) of the attention" by Isabella Grassi (translated and published in German); "An experimental introduction to the study of types of mental work" by Maria Maccagno; "Researches on the attention, memory and intelligence of children from nine to fifteen years" by Alighiero Micci; "Experimental psychological investigations on very intelligent children" by Alda Jeronutti; "A study of the dreams of children of three years" by S. Doglia and F. Banchiere, and "A contribution to the knowledge of psychic deafness." This last is a study of an individual case under observation for a period of four years.

THEODATE L. SMITH.

Reaction Time to Retinal Stimulation, with special reference to the time lost in conduction through nerve centers. By A. T. POFFENBERGER, Jr. Ph. D. Arch. of Psychol., No. 23. (Columbia Cont. to Phil. and Psychol. Vol. XXI, No. 1.) New York, 1912. iii + 73 pp.

An effort has been made in this study, by means of reaction-time, to discover the time required for nervous conduction to pass over a single synapse between two neurones. The author reviews the literature on nerve conduction and shows that the synapse has come to be considered the critical point of attack for the study of differences in